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PREZ GOTABAYA HOLDS TALKS WITH 42 MPs WHO LEFT GOVT

It comes as pressure mounted on the president to resign over the government's mishandling of the economic crisis

DEMAND FOR MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA'S OUSTER

During the meeting, the MPs asked the president to remove his elder brother Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and appoint a new cabinet. They handed out a list of proposals to bail out the country from the current economic and political crisis. The meeting comes as protesters occupied the entrance to the president's office for a second day | P9

OPPOSITION TO BRING IN NO-TRUST VOTE

- The main Opposition SJB party has started collecting signatures of its MPs to move a no-trust motion against the government
- Sri Lanka's biggest Tamil party, the Tamil National Alliance, on Sunday said it is ready to support the no-trust motion
- Parliament may reconvene on April 19 to debate the motion

$51 bn

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Seasoned Sharif set to be elected Imran successor

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

HOURS after the unceremonious ouster of Imran Khan as prime minister, leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif (70) filed his nomination papers to be elected his successor.

Imran's party named outgoing foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi as its candidate for the post.

Shehbaz's election on Monday is just a formality since he is the joint Opposition's candidate for the post. Also, the no-trust motion he moved against Imran fetched 174 ayes, two more than the halfway mark in a House of 342. Bilawal Bhutto is tipped to be the new foreign minister.

So, what does Shehbaz's election mean for India? Bilateral relations with Pakistan touched its nadir when Imran was at the helm as he made personal attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi while being hawkish on Kashmir. In contrast, Shehbaz is a seasoned politician who keeps invoking Kashmir but his tenor is softer towards India and the minorities in Pakistan.

During Holi he wished Hindus living in Pakistan for the festival. He often tweets condemning the killings of minorities (Hindus and Christians) in Pakistan.

Shehbaz is also part owner of a steel conglomerate, the Ittefaq group.

His brother and former PM Nawaz Sharif has had close ties with Indian industrialist Sajjan Jindal, whose backchannel helped open a line of communication at the highest level on both sides. Experts on Pakistan see the possibility of reactivating the channel.

With Pakistan Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa already pushing for diplomacy and dialogue with India on all outstanding issues, including Kashmir, and re-establishing trade ties, Shehbaz will find more legroom to explore restoring bilateral relations.

On foreign policy, Shehbaz will continue to have close ties with the US, China and Turkey. There have been some concerns on his health though as he is a cancer survivor. If Shehbaz is successful in managing the situation till the elections next year, a thaw in India's relations with Pakistan cannot be ruled out.

Meanwhile, outgoing minister Fawad Chaudhry said MPs of Imran's party will resign if Shehbaz's candidature as PM is not rejected. More drama is likely, as Imran isn't willing to concede defeat just yet.

We want peace with India, but peace is not possible without resolution of the Kashmir issue

Shehbaz Sharif's first comments after Imran's ouster

4 detained for vandalising Muslim vendor's cart

A police van outside the Hanuman temple in Nuggikeri, Dharwad | EXPRESS

We are investigating on the basis of Killedar's complaint. After examining the video footage on the internet, we had summoned a few people.

Senior police officer

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH @ Dharwad

THE Dharwad police on Sunday detained four people for allegedly vandalising a fruit cart belonging to a Muslim trader on the premises of Hanuman temple in Nuggikeri of Dharwad district on Saturday.

The vendor, Nabhisab Killedar, filed a complaint with the Dharwad Rural police, who checked the video footage to trace the culprits. The accused -- Mylarappa Guddappanavar, 27, Mahaling Aigali, 26, Chidananad Kalal, 25, and Kumar Kattimani, 26, all residents from Dharwad -- were picked up by the police late on Sunday night.

"The FIR has been filed against 10 people. After going through the video footage available on the internet about the incident, we had summoned a few people. We detained four people for questioning," a senior police official said.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said in Hubballi that it is the responsibility of everyone to maintain communal harmony. "We all should live together in India. The organisations should oppose in a democratic way. It is not right to take law into their hands," he added, referring to the fruit cart incident.

"The opposition parties are making baseless allegations that the government and CM Basavaraj Bommai are supporting a campaign to ban the Muslim community. It is the duty of the government to take action against fundamentalists and those involved in terrorist activities. The government will not protect anyone who is involved in such activities," he added. Writer Rajendra Chenni said, "This is a threat to the secular and plural culture which is the very soul of North Karnataka." Another writer and progressive thinker Shankar Halagati said the police should look into the issue. P4

Scuffle in JNU hostel over non-veg food

ANKITA UPADHYAY @ New Delhi

A major scuffle broke out between ABVP and Left students at the Jawaharlal Nehru University on Sunday over non-vegetarian food in the hostel on the occasion of Ram Navami.

Akshita Ansari, a student, sustained a head injury. Others who were injured included Madhurima Kundu, Briti Kar and Sarika Chowdhary. Both sides accused each other of hurling stones.

According to the All India Students Union, there was tension on the campus since late afternoon after students from ABVP tried to intervene when non-vegetarian food was being cooked in the Kaveri hostel mess.

"Condemn the attempt to intentionally disrupt peaceful campus atmosphere by ABVP hoodlums. The goons continue to riot in and around Kaveri hostel, breaking bikes, beating students," claimed the Left student union.

As for the ABVP, it claimed that Left students had tried to disrupt Ram Navami pooja in the hostel late in the afternoon. The DCP of South-west Delhi, Manoj C said the situation is now under control and action will be taken when complaints are filed.

CID to probe JJ Nagar murder

The truth must come out and there should be an impartial probe from a third party

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

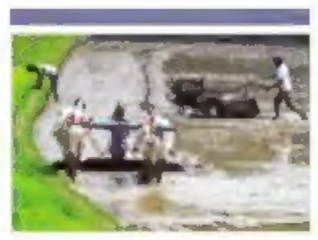
EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE state government has handed over the investigation into the murder of Chandru, a 22-year-old youth who was stabbed to death in JJ Nagar, to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to conduct an "impartial probe from all angles".

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said he discussed handing over the probe to the CID with DG&IGP Praveen Sood and Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant. "The truth must come out and there should be an impartial probe from a third party," he added. Chandru was stabbed to death by a gang of three people in Haleguddadahalli in JJ Nagar police limits on April 5.

The case had kicked up a storm after Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said that Chandru was murdered as the accused asked him to speak in Urdu and he did not know the language.

But the minister retracted the statement within a few hours and said the murder took place after Chandru's vehicle grazed the vehicle of the accused.



FARMERS

THEY WILL DRIVE INDIA, SAYS PM

'The stronger the farmers become, more prosperous the new India would be,' wrote PM Narendra Modi on Sunday, adding the country is proud of farmers.

Modi-Biden bilateral today ahead of 2+2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will hold a virtual bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden on Monday coinciding with the fourth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue lined up in Washington.

"President Joseph R Biden, Jr will meet virtually with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India on Monday, April 11 to further deepen ties between our governments, economies, and our people," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki announced on Sunday.

The Ukraine situation will certainly figure in the talks Biden has with Modi. "Biden will continue our close consultations on the consequences of Russia's brutal war against Ukraine and mitigating its destabilising impact on global food supply and commodity markets," Psaki said.

The two leaders will review the ongoing bilateral cooperation and exchange views on recent developments in South Asia, the Indo-Pacific region and global issues of mutual interest. The virtual meeting will enable both sides to continue their regular and high-level engagement aimed at further strengthening the bilateral Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar are in Washington for their 2+2 dialogue with their US counterparts, Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

This is the first edition of the 2+2 dialogue under the Biden administration.

EXPRESS READ

Yechury's third term as CPM general secretary

Kannur: Determined to regain its lost space in national politics, the CPM has given a third term to Sitaram Yechury at the helm and inducted for the first time in its history a Dalit in the politburo. Yechury was re-elected as general secretary at a time when the CPM has vowed to take the lead in forming a broad alliance to isolate and defeat BJP. | P5

No FBI team in India to probe Bitcoin scam in Karnataka, clarifies CBI

Bengaluru: Contradicting media reports that a team of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has come to India to investigate a Bitcoin (BTC) case of Karnataka police, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has denied the information. In an official communication on Sunday, the CBI stated, "FBI has not sent any team to India for conducting a probe in the matter nor has any request been made by FBI to CBI for conducting an investigation in this case in India. The question of any permission for the probe by competent authority in India does not arise." | P5

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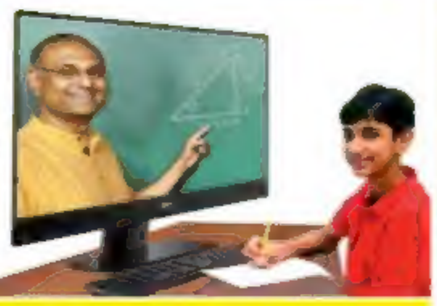

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Reservation for Policyholders

To participate, policyholders must meet the following criteria:

- Resident Individual Policyholders of the Corporation having one or more policies of the Corporation as on February 13, 2022 and Bid/Offer opening date are eligible.*
- **Policyholder's PAN details should have been updated with the Corporation on or before February 28, 2022.**

* Please also refer draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022

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OR

- Visit either of these websites for registered Depository Participants (DP) to open a DEMAT account:

NSDL: https://nsdl.co.in/Open_NSDL_Demat_Account.php

CDSL: https://www.cdslindia.com/DP/dplist.aspx

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the draft red herring prospectus dated February 13, 2022 ("DRHP") read with the corrigendum dated February 15, 2022. The DRHP is available on the websites of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e., BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, respectively and is also available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, BofA Securities India Limited at www.ml-india.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited at www.goldmansachs.com, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, JM Financial Limited at www.jmfl.com, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com, Nomura Financial Advisory and Securities (India) Private Limited at www.nomuraholdings.com/company/group/asia/india/index.html and SBI Capital Markets Limited at www.sbicaps.com. Potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled 'Risk Factors' of the RHP when filed. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" beginning on page 23 of the DRHP.

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